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Letter to the editor

## Comments on "Anti-rotation proximal femoral nail versus dynamic hip screw for intertrochanteric fractures: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled studies" of L. Shen, Y. Zhang, Y. Shen, Z. Cui published in Orthop Traumatol Surg Res 2013;99:377–83☆

We read the article by Shen et al. [1] with deep interest. We appreciate the authors' efforts to figure the superiority between the two major operation choices for intertrochanteric fracture out through the meta-analysis. However, we have some comments on the article.

As for all the papers included in this article, two [2,3] of them written by two same authors who work in the same department of the same hospital (Table 1). Additionally, the patients with trochanteric fractures between January 2006 and December 2007 were included in one study [2] and the patients with unstable pertrochanteric fractures between August 2006 and June 2008 were included into the other [3]. All the participants who met the selection criteria agreed to be treated with PFNA (proximal femoral anti-rotation nail) or DHS (dynamic hip screw) randomly in the first study [3], while some patients who came from the same period participated in the other one [2] (Table 1). It is likely that there are some repetitions data of the participants with unstable pertrochanteric fractures between August 2006 and December 2007, which might lead to more risk of bias and imprecision of the results. Besides, it might increase the rate of type I error and false positive in statistics. According to the *Cochrane Handbook* [4], information from multiple reports are supposed to be analyzed and collated with cautious by the review authors to avoid including repetitions data of the participants. The authors should have been mentioned how they deal with this point, but it is not.

Nevertheless, the flaw cannot lessen this article's complete value and we thoroughly enjoyed reading the paper with respect.

**Table 1**
Two studies of probable repetitions of included participants.

| Study | Study period | Department of hospital | Fracture types | Nº of patients (PFNA vs DHS) | Follow-up (months) | Outcomes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zou et al. [2] | 2006.1–2007.12 | Department of orthopaedic surgery, The first affiliated hospital of Soochow university | AO 31A1/A2/A3 | 121 (58 vs 63) | 12 | Operative time, blood loss, fluoroscopy time, hospital stay, complication, Salvati and Wilson Score |
| Xuet al. [3] | 2006.8–2008.6 | Department of orthopaedic surgery, The first affiliated hospital of Soochow university | AO 31A2 | 106 (51 vs 55) | 12 | Operative time, blood loss, fluoroscopy time, hospital stay, complication, postoperative variable, incision length, blood transfusion |

PFNA vs DHS: proximal femoral anti-rotation nail versus dynamic hip screw.

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☆ In spite of our requests, the authors of the article "Anti-rotation proximal femoral nail versus dynamic hip screw for intertrochanteric fractures: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled studies" did not send any answer.


http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.otsr.2014.01.002

## References

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